



The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 74 No. 9 March 2, 2021

ELDERS

David Anderson
Kenny French
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Stacey Paulin
Jimmy Sweeney

MINISTER

Hiram Kemp

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

SECRETARY

Dee Parramore

OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00 a.m.
Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

EMAIL

SFA.church@gmail.com

WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

YOUTUBE.com

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist

HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill.....Russia
Don Iverson.....India
Marc Veary.....Malawi, Africa
Graham McDonald..Scotland
J. Paguaga.....Honduras, C.A.
Joey Treat.....Pacific Islands
Ted Wheeler.....Ghana, W.A.

You are invited to a

Spring Gospel Meeting

hosted by the

South Florida Ave. church of Christ

March 7 – 10, 2021

Islam in Christ's Eyes

A study of the origins of Islam and the Christian response

Sunday, March 7 – 9:30 am (Bible class hour)

The Quran or the Bible?

Sunday, March 7 – 10:30 am (Sermon in worship)

I am an Arab, and I am a Christian

Sunday, March 7 – 6:00 pm (Sermon in worship)

Abraham, Muhammad, and the

Golden Butterfly

Monday, March 8 – 7:00 pm

Evolution

Tuesday, March 9 – 7:00 pm

Islam Myth Buster

Wednesday, March 10 – 7:00 pm

For We Do Not Wrestle



Wissam Al-Aethawi
Dearborn, MI



Live stream will be available



South Florida Avenue church of Christ channel

The Ten Commandments of Social Media

by Hiram Kemp

The Bible gives us everything we need to enjoy a life of godliness and righteousness before our God (2 Pet. 1:3). The Bible calls for Christians to do good works (Eph. 2:10), but it also equips us to do the good works that God requires (2 Tim. 3:17). Though the writers of the New Testament do not speak specifically about social media (social media was not popularized until the early 2000s), we should expect to find principles that help us to use it in a way that honors Christ. No Christian must have or use social media, but if we do use it, here are ten commandments or principles that we should be sure to abide by.

Commandment #1: Thou Shall Not Post Sinful Things (1 Thess. 5:22)

Christians are to abstain from evil in every form that it appears (1 Thess. 5:22). God desires that we model the same holiness that is characteristic of Him (1 Pet. 1:15-16). When we use social media, we should be sure not to post pictures of ourselves doing sinful things. We should not post pictures of us, or others, drinking, statuses with cursing, or quotes that promote ungodly behavior. We live in the world and cannot escape the presence of ungodliness, but we do not have to engage in it or promote it (John 17:15; 1 Cor. 5:9-10). We should be mindful of what we post and refrain from posting and endorsing things that are contrary to life in the Spirit (Gal. 5:19-25).

Commandment #2: Thou Shall Let Thy Light Shine (Matt. 5:16)

Jesus commanded his people to influence the world as salt (Matt. 5:13). Instead of hiding our light under a bush, we are to shine it for all the world to see, and in so doing, we point the glory to our Heavenly Father (Matt. 5:14-16). On social media, we should do all that we can to let our light shine. This does not necessitate that every one of our posts includes scripture or that we always share a sermon, but it does mean that our posts should lean toward positivity. We have good news to share and must be people of optimism and godliness. Beware of being the “doom and gloom” person on social media or anywhere else, for that matter. Our speech must be seasoned with salt and so should our posts (Col. 4:6). We should ask ourselves before we post:

- Will this reflect good on the Lord?
- Will this encourage others?
- Is this true?
- Would Jesus post something like this?
- Will this attract others to Christianity?

Commandment #3: Thou Shall Not Covet (Heb. 13:5)

Social media is great for posting good things happening in our lives and our congregation. Sometimes as this happens, people look across the fence at what others have or are doing, and there is a sense of jealousy or covetousness that wells up inside of us. Be sure to congratulate others, be genuinely happy for the good others are enjoying, and celebrate the milestones being reached by friends and neighbors (Rom. 12:15). If a sister congregation is enjoying success or doing a good work, we should learn from them and be happy without wishing we were them or coveting their success. Social media should be used to commend and encourage not to compare and covet (cf. Exod. 20:17; Col. 3:5).

(continued on page 4)

~ YOUTH GROUP NEWS ~

5 Stories before Abraham was

1. Creation
2. Adam & Eve
3. Cain & Abel
4. Noah & the Ark
5. Tower of Babel

Before Abraham was I AM
John 8:58

Senior Saints

by John McShane

Prayer is mentioned many times in the Bible. I ran across an article about prayer a while back. “A man was asked what do you gain by regularly praying to God? The man replied nothing, but let me tell you what I lost: anger, ego, greed, depression, insecurity, and fear of death.” Many times when we pray, we are asking God for something. However, praying can also let us get rid of many of our fears that we accumulate as we go through life. Being willing to ask God to take on our fears can work wonders for our mental well-being. We serve a mighty God that will listen to our requests. We just need the courage to ask. In Isaiah 41:10, we read, “**So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.**” In Jeremiah 30:17, “**But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds,’ declares the LORD.**” We do not have to go through the storms of life alone if we have a strong faith in our God.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16

Our Members:

Bob Pratt
 Chuck Wyatt
 Adeline Hine
 Bill & Carlene Long
 Cieara Edwards
 Kathy Nester
 Sharon M. Washington
 Joyce Williams
 Sharon Roy
 Katrina Greene

PRAYER LIST

Brenda Mask
 Linda McShane
 Bernetta Green
 Bobby Simpson
 Brian Smith
 Jim Turner
 Annette Phillip
 Ron & Judy Ford
 Jim Edmonson
 Antoine & Marcella Swain

Carol Edmonson
 Wayne Shearer
 Ingrid Stewart
 Melody Baxter
 Geny Johnson
 Margaret Coone
 George Davis
 Ray Nashick
 Edward Atkins

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week.

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

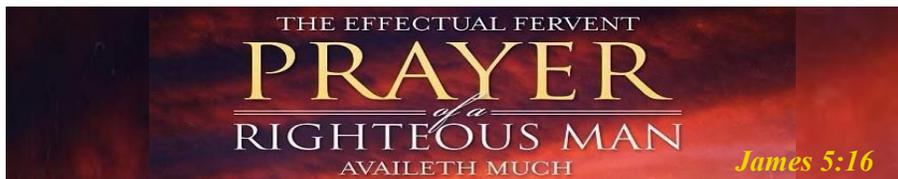
Faith West Joyce Burbage Carol Eason
 Ellen Shearer Chuck Wyatt

Phone numbers are in the directory. Let's call to let them know we miss them and love them.

UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

Jim Edmonson has been able to move to rehab.

Thanksgiving - 1 Thessalonians 5:18



Dates to remember

March

- March 3** - Quarterly challenge
- March 6** - Youth Group Activity, 4:00 pm at the Andersons.
- March 7-10** - Gospel Meeting with Wissam Al-Aethawi. "Islam in Christ's Eyes"
- March 7** - Fellowship In-service AFTER evening services.
- March 14** - Elders, Deacons, Preachers meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- March 14** - New Quarter begins: Men & Women of Old Testament

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT - the Selection of Directors

To comply with state regulations, an annual meeting and selection of directors must be conducted each year. This will be done immediately following morning worship service, March 14, 2021. The following nominees have been made: David Anderson (chairman); George French (vice-chairman); Brian Kenyon (treasurer); Bobby Sheumaker (secretary). Nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting. However, the nominee's willingness to accept must be presented to the chairman prior to the meeting.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

February

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Song Leader/Prayer Rick Kenyon
 Devo Josh Potvin
 Closing Prayer Allen Grimes

Sunday, March 7, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Wissam Al-Aethawi
 "I am an Arab, and I am a Christian"

GOSPEL MEETING

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Wissam Al-Aethawi
 "Abraham, Muhammad, and the Golden Butterfly"

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both times) Phil Fife
 Greeters Stewart
 Song/prayer before class Ian Enamorado
 Announcements Brian Kenyon
 A.M. Song Leader Tucker Sweeney
 Scripture reading/Prayer Terrance Dindy, Jr.
 Lord's Table Alex Parramore
 Closing Prayer Paul Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

Greeters Fife
 P.M. Song Leader Tucker Sweeney
 Scripture reading/Prayer Josh Estridge
 Lord's Table Alex Parramore
 Closing Prayer Wayne Shearer

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Song Leader/prayer Vince Daugherty
 Devo Wissam Al-Aethawi
 Closing Prayer Nigel St. Bernard

ASSEMBLING UPDATE

We still encourage those who do not feel well and those who consider themselves high-risk to stay at home.

To side with caution, we are still requiring masks to be worn upon entering the building as we have since July 2.

We will continue live-streaming the services on YouTube as we have since March 22.
 Thank you for your cooperation. - Elders

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Feb. 14 \$5,665.00
Feb. 21 \$6,918.00
Feb. 28 \$6,804.00
Contribution Average \$7,202.74

Why are you seeking Jesus? – Mark 8:11, John 6:24, John 18:7

Is it because you want Him to do something great for you? – John 6:2, Luke 9:11

Is it because you want financial blessings? – Malachi 3:10, Leviticus 25:21

Is it because you want to be healed physically? – Matthew 4:23-24, Luke 4:40

Seek Jesus for these reasons:

Because He died for you – Romans 5:8, 1 Corinthians 15:3

Because you love Him – Deuteronomy 6:5, Mark 12:30

To receive the forgiveness of sins – 2 Chronicles 7:14, Acts 5:30-31

For eternal life – Matthew 19:16-17, John 3:16

When you have found Him, be willing to show your gratitude for all that He has done by obeying His commands (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38); spending your life serving Him (John 12:26); being willing to be a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1); when you fall, be quick to repent and get back on the right track (Revelation 2:5); and live faithfully until death (Revelation 2:10).

The Ten Commandments of Social Media

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Commandment #4: Thou Shall Not Bite and Devour the Brethren (Gal. 5:15)

There is nothing wrong with healthy discussion and even disagreement, but we must not destroy, belittle, and embarrass one another on social media (Gal. 5:15). The world is watching, but more importantly, God is watching (Prov. 15:3). As parents sometimes tell their children, “If you don’t have anything nice to say, don’t say anything at all.” Surely there is a time and a place for rebuke (Eccl. 3:1), but perhaps social media is not the best place to do so. If we have an issue with a brother or sister, it would be better to go face to face rather than to go to Facebook (Matt. 18:15-20; 3 John 13-14). The church is a divine advertisement for the Lord. Let us put our best foot forward for the world to see (John 13:34-35).

Commandment #5: Thou Shall Pray For Others (Col. 4:2; James 5:16)

There are so many prayer requests that come across one’s social media feed. These must be viewed as a great opportunity to pray (Col. 4:2; James 5:16). We will grow closer to God as we pray, and we can intercede on behalf of others. The thing to remember is to actually pray! It is easy to type a comment which says: “praying” or “I’ll be praying” and never get around to actually praying. Pray right then and there, and keep a list on your phone or elsewhere where you can add names. Pray for them in the morning, at the red light, or before bed (1 Thess. 5:25). Use social media as a place to pray for others. As you scroll down, even if someone does not post as request, pray for friends you see and their families (1 Thess. 5:17; 1 Pet. 4:7).

Here are the first five commandments for social media, next week’s bulletin will round out the ten that hopefully will help us glorify our Savior in a social media world!

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

Find us on social media



**South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1807 South Florida Avenue

Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

YOU ARE MY
FRIENDS IF YOU
DO WHATEVER I
COMMAND YOU.

JOHN 15:14